



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Your Reference: RH/P103056GB
Application No: GB 0317953.8

15 August 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977:
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)

Latest date for reply:

| |
|---------------|
| 1 August 2005 |
|---------------|

Your request for accelerated combined search and examination has been agreed to. I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and two copies of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **21 December 2004**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

†Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 21 December 2004 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

Yours faithfully

Carol Ann McQueen
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could **prominently indicate** in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



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Application No: GB 0317953.8
Claims searched: All

Examiner: Carol Ann McQueen
Date of search: 14 August 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

| Category | Relevant to claims | Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance | |
|----------|--|--|---|
| X | 1, 4, 5, 7, 16, 17, 19 to 24 and 28 to 30. | JP 080102283 A | (SHIMADZU CORP) Abstract and Figures 1 and 3. |
| A | | JP 060325731 A | (HITACHI LTD) Abstract and Figures 1 and 9. |
| A | | US 5187365 | (KELLY) Abstract and Figure 1. |
| A | | US 3725700 | (TURNER) Abstract and Figures 1 and 2. |

Categories:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| X | Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step | A | Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art. |
| Y | Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category. | P | Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention. |
| & | Member of the same patent family | E | Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application. |

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^v:

H1D

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

H01J

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO



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Patents Act 1977

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Inventive step

1. The invention as defined in claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 16, 17, 19 to 24 and 28 to 30 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following document:

JP 080102283 A (SHIMADZU CORP)

2. The cited document JP 080102283 (SHIMADZU CORP) discloses a QMF for a quadrupole mass analysis device. With reference to the figures, the mass filter can be seen to comprise four rod electrodes 11 to 14 respectively connected to voltage generating units 15 to 18. The voltage generating units 15 to 18 are connected to a control unit 19. The control unit is said to give control signals to the individual voltage generating units 15 to 18 with respect to AC and DC components. It is further stated that the AC and DC voltage components for each electrode rod may be altered individually, an example being only varying the AC component of one individual rod and therefore undoubtedly causing a potential difference, in order to overcome the errors produced by assembly of the quadrupole mass filter, i.e. misalignment. Although this document does not mention a detector for enabling the detection of such an error, it seems that this would be a requirement to enable adjustment of the AC and DC components to overcome such an error. Therefore it is taken that this document shows the invention as claimed in claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 16, 17, 19 to 24 and 28 to 30 to lack the required inventive step.

3. The claims therefore require amendments to be made for this application to comply with the act and be allowed to continue. Care should be taken when amending that no additional matter is added to the application which was not present at the original time of filing, and also that any amendments made to the claims are reiterated in the description to ensure consistency between the two.